
S E C R E T

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FM JERUSALEM

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

SECRET/SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY 240026Z MAY 74

25X1

HAKTO 142

MAY 24, 1974

TO: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: THE SECRETARY

1. THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT THE MORE IMPERATIVE IT IS NOT TO PLAN A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST UNTIL WE KNOW THE OUTCOME OF THESE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS. HAD I LEFT THE AREA A WEEK AGO, LEAVING THEREFORE A DECENT INTERVAL BETWEEN MY TRIP AND THE PRESIDENT'S, AND HAD I LEFT WITH THE TALKS RECESSED OR FAILED, THEN A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP MIGHT HAVE HAD A CERTAIN CALMING INFLUENCE ON THE AREA.

2. HOWEVER, UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WE MUST SEE MORE CLEARLY HOW MY TALKS ARE GOING TO COME OUT BEFORE I CAN MAKE A REASONED, HONEST RECOMMENDATION.

3. I ALSO ASK THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE FACT THAT A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP UNDERTAKEN FOR NO OBVIOUS REASON MAY BE CONNECTED TO WATERGATE PROBLEMS, AND THE TRIP COULD THEREBY UNDERMINE OUR WHOLE FOREIGN POLICY.

4. I INTEND TO BE BACK MONDAY NIGHT. UNTIL THEN, I HOPE YOU WILL KEEP EVERYONE'S ENTHUSIASM UNDER CONTROL SO THAT WE CAN HAVE A RATIONAL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE TRIP.

5. WARM REGARDS.

SECRET/SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

MORI/CDF
C03344593

State Dept. review completed

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

***** WHSR COMMENT *****

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, SEC FLE

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